(b) At present there are no sanctioned works which are yet to be started.

(c) Railway's share of the cost of the Projects is allocated to Plan head "MTP" in the Railways' Annual Plan.

Backlog of SC/ST vacancies in Railways

97. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the post-wise breakup of reserved posts for SC/ST lying vacant in various railway zones till date; and

(b) the action being taken to clear the backlog of reserved posts in various categories and for promoting the SC/ST employees in accordance with the reservation rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Detailed below are the number of posts which were identified for filling up as on 30.6.96, are lying vacant for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Zonal Railways/Production Units as on 31.12.96 in recruitment category:—

	SC	ST
Group 'C'	599	646
Group 'D'	813	1387

(b) As per the Directives of Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T), a Special Recruitment Drive has been launched from 15.7.96 to fill up the vacant posts of SC/STs in recruitment to be completed by 31.3.97.

15% and 7-1/2% reservation for SC/STs are provided in vacancies/posts filled on promotion in each category and these are being followed.

Promotion of IRTS Officers

98. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of delay in promotion of Selection Grade IRTS officers to Senior Administrative Grade has been reported in some dailies of Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether promotion of Selection Grade Officers working in other departments viz, Accounts, Stores, Mechanical and Electrical of Railways and Railway Board is held up in view of this delay;

(d) whether there is a sharp discontentment amongst the officers because of this delay;

(e) whether Government propose to take some action to ensure promotion of deserving officers without further delay; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) A news item on delay in promotion of IRTS officers to Senior Administrative Grade appeared in Hindustan Times of 02-02-97.

(c) to (f) SAG panels of IRSE, IRSSE and IRMS for the year 1996-97 have already been finalised. SAG panels of IRTS, IRSEE, IRSS, IRSME and IRAS are awaiting approval of competent authority. Panel formation in the Railway Services is an ongoing and time consuming process and all efforts are being made to finalise the panels as soon as possible.

Survey for gauge conversion of Rangia-Murkongselek rail line

99. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey undertaken for gauge conversion of Rangia-Murkongselek and linked lines to Tezpur and Bhalukpong in Arunachal Pradesh have since been completed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It is a long section having a number of major bridges, as such the survey will take about 6 (six) months for completion.

Setting-up of budget hotels by Railways

100. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: